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A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, 17th November, 1894.

BIRTHS.

At Elmhurst, Penang, on the 12th November,
the wife of Mr. C. W. BARNETT, of a daughter.
On November 10th, at No. 77 Main Street,
Yokohama, the wife of BARTIN H. PRATT, of a daughter.At St. Helena, River Valley Road, Singapore,
on 12th Nov., Mrs. A. H. RABURN, of a son.

DEATH.

On 11th October, at Riverside House, Tulse
Hill, London, HARRIET HIDE, widow of the late
Wallace Parsons Hide, of Singapore.The Hongkong Telegraph
HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1894.

TELEGRAMS.

THE CHINA-JAPAN WAR.

LONDON, November 20th.

Some fighting took place near Chiefo on the
18th instant, and also twenty miles from Port
Arthur. In the latter engagement the Japanese
retreated towards Ta Lien Wan.
Despatches from Yokohama state that a
Japanese Army Corps left Kinohon on the 16th
and proceeded towards Port Arthur in two
divisions.

EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY.

The havoc caused by the earthquake is
terrible, and shocks still continue.

THE WAR IN THE DUTCH INDIES.

The Dutch troops have completed the capture
of Yakranegara, and all the Raja's treasure
has fallen into their hands.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, October 22nd.

A horrible case of lynching is reported from
South Carolina, U.S.A. Five negroes, who
were suspected of having murdered a white
official, were tracked by a bloodhound and were
then murdered by an infuriated and bloodthirsty
mob.Advices from Honolulu state that the mission
of Messrs. Mercer and Sandford Fleming to
Hawaii in connection with the Pacific cable has
not been successful with regard to obtaining the
island of Necker. The Provisional Government
is opposed to conceding or leasing the island,
owing to the existence of a treaty with the
United States Government.M. Felix Faure, the French Minister of
Marine, states that France is about to build an
ironclad, three cruisers, and ten torpedo boats.
He adds that the French Admiralty are pre-
paring the plans of the *Corsair*, a cruiser which
is expected to attain a speed of twenty-three
knots per hour, and which will have a great
coal-carrying capacity.The Times writes the Australian Colonies to
come under the operation of the recently con-
cluded Anglo-Japanese Treaty. It points out
that the trade benefits gained by them by taking
this step will outweigh the influx of Japanese
into the colonies which will possibly follow.

BANGALORE, October 30th.

Mr. James Harold Smith, manager of the
Mercara Tile Factory, Coorg, who on the 23rd
instant murdered his wife at Yellahanka, near
Bangalore, by shooting three times at her with a
revolver, died in the Mysore Government City
Hospital last night, cravelling having supervised
on the morning he inflicted upon himself when
trying to commit suicide. After the murder, the
shot in his head had so affected his speech that
he died dumb. On the subject of the details
attending his dastardly act, his mother-in-law,
Mrs. Devereux, whom he also shot in the neck,
has almost quite recovered.

LAHORE, October 31st.

While on baggage guard from Peshawar to
Cherat a private of the King's Royal Rifles had
his Lee-Netford rifle snatched from him by two
daring Pathan thieves. "Tommy" captured
one, but the other fled with the rifle.

ALLAHABAD, November 1st.

Eleven Volunteer carbines, twelve bayonets,
and some pouches and belts, have been stolen
from St. Peter's College Armoury, Agra. The
thieves dug through a wall, thirty inches thick,
to effect an entrance. The police are investigat-
ing, but have discovered no clue to the robbers
yet.

LAHORE, November 1st.

A daring and well-planned decoy was com-
mitted within a few miles of Peshawar on the
Grand Trunk road to Ludhiana. Several dacoits
dressed as policemen stopped a gang of travellers
who had boats and ekkas with them, and began
to search their things on the pretence of finding
smuggled opium in the luggage. Suddenly
some real police people came up, who now found
out what the false police were about, and a hand-
to-hand struggle with lathis ensued. The police
being fewer were overpowered, and one man had
his arm fractured. The thieves escaped, but the
police have succeeded in finding a trace of them.

LONDON, November 2nd.

A telegram just received from Lima declares
the reported attack on the British Consulate at
Callao by insurgents is unfounded. The British
Squadron at Vancouver sailed for the South
probably to protect British subjects and property
in view of a revolution in Peru.Reuter's correspondent at Yokohama tele-
graphs that the Japanese have captured Port
Arthur.The Queen has forwarded a message of con-
dolence to the Russian Imperial family. Her
Majesty expresses her heartfelt sympathy, which
she declares is shared by all her faithful subjects.
Serious news has been received from North
Peru. The insurgents at Callao attacked the
British Consulate there, and it is reported the
insurgents made the British Consul a prisoner,
his wife and daughter were killed. It is further
reported that the British Consulate is already
burned by the insurgents. The British Squad-
ron at Vancouver has been hastily ordered to
proceed to Callao.

PARIS, November 2nd.

In consequence of the death of the Czar there
will be official and private demonstrations and
mourning throughout France; the theatres and
other places of amusement will be closed; the
Chamber of Deputies will be adjourned.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 2nd.

A manifesto has been issued to the Russian
people by the Czar, signed Nicholas II, de-
claring he will be mindful of his august father's
legacy. He solemnly vows to make a peaceful
development of the power and glory of Russia,
and to secure happiness to his subjects to be
his sole aim.After the issue of the evening bulletin on
Wednesday the late Czar gradually sank. At
about forenoon on Thursday, a serious collapse
came on, and the members of the Imperial
family were summoned into the room. The
Court Chaplain administered the extreme unction
and read the prayers for the dying; his Majesty
rapidly sank and quietly passed away, conscious
to the last moment, in the presence of the
assembled family at fifteen minutes past two
p.m.

ALLAHABAD, November 2nd.

Mr. Justice Blair, presiding at the Allahabad
Criminal Sessions, has been occupied the last
three days in trying the sensational case of
Assistant Surgeon O'Donoghue, Indian Medical
Service, on the charge of drugging and assaulting
a Miss Matthews. The prisoner was sentenced
to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

November 3rd.

A rumour has reached Tark that 3,000
Wazirias had collected with the intention of
attacking Jandala today. Reinforcements have
been sent and are expected to reach there on
Monday. The Jandala garrison thus strengthened
is considered quite capable of repelling any
attack.

LONDON, November 3rd.

A Chinese report has been received here of the
recapture of Kinlincheng and of the Japanese
losing three thousand men.Advices from Argentina state that the Supreme
Court has confirmed the extradition of Jacob
Balfour.

PARIS, November 3rd.

War between France and Madagascar is
imminent. News has been received that M. le
Mire de Villars, French Plenipotentiary, has left
the Hova capital without receiving any answer
to the French demands.

SIMLA, November 3rd.

A report received from the Wazirias
Delimitation report states that a determined
attack was made upon the camp of the escort at
5.30 a.m. this morning, the enemy being beaten
off with considerable loss.

LONDON, November 3rd.

General Philip Smith has died.

SOFIA, November 3rd.

The Sobranje which met yesterday adjourned
as a mark of respect to the late Emperor
Alexander, the resolution of the Chamber trying
him as the son of the Liberator of Bulgaria. The
Bulgarian Army goes into mourning for the
space of a week.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 4th.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have arrived
at Livadia.

LONDON, November 4th.

The eminently pacific language in which the
manifesto of the Emperor Nicholas announcing
his accession to the Throne of Russia is couched,
has given great satisfaction throughout Europe.

PARIS, November 4th.

The French newspapers of every shade of
opinion express confidence that the excellent
relations between Russia and France which the
late Emperor inaugurated will be continued by
his son, notwithstanding his intended marriage
with a German Princess. The French news-
papers are too sanguine in making the above
statement, as the new Czar's leanings are quite
unknown.It is expected that the French Government
will ask the Chamber of Deputies for a credit
of sixty million francs for a campaign in
Madagascar.

LAHORE, November 4th.

A telegram from camp Wazo, from the
Wazirias escort, dated November 3rd, states
that the enemy attacked early this morning about
two or three thousand strong, and there was
desperate hand-to-hand fighting for some
minutes. Though the enemy made repeated
and very heavy rushes, they were driven back
each time, finally retreating, leaving over one
hundred dead and many wounded.Our casualties are: Lieutenant P. J. Macaulay,
R.E., killed; Captain Lang, J. J. Gorkhas;
Lieutenants Angelo and Herbert, J. J. Gorkhas;
Surgeon-Major Halg, 1st Punjab Cavalry;
Lieutenant Hornby, 24th Belochistan Regiment,
Ordnery Officer, all wounded, but doing well and
not in danger; Lieut. Thompson, 26th Punjab
Infantry, is also wounded. Two Gorkhas, native
officers and seven Gorkhas were killed and
thirty-two Gorkhas wounded.A strong party has gone in pursuit of the
enemy with whom they have come into touch
and are slaying many. The enemy's dead bodies
are recognized to be Mahasuds from the Makin
and Abdul Rahman Khels from the Kalsara
Valley. Casualties amongst the followers were
twenty-three killed and twenty wounded. The
enemy displayed heroic boldness, but have
suffered enormously and are not likely to renew
their attack again.

LONDON, November 5th.

Despatches speak of an important naval
battle, but they give no details.An attempt to blow up the house of the Hon.
Reginald B. Brett, M.A., and J.P., at Mayfair,
W., took place yesterday. The bomb exploded
opposite the premises, smashing the front door
and all the windows. Nobody was hurt. The
motives of the outrage is not known.It is believed that the bomb which exploded
opposite the house of the Hon. Reginald Brett
was intended to destroy the adjoining house of
the Hon. Sir Henry Hawkins, as several
anarchists were lately tried before him as one
of the Judges of the Queen's Bench division and
were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.The *Daily News* in a leading article this
morning asks whether a further effort towards
friendly mediation between China and Japan is
now possible on the part of the British
Government. Owing to Great Britain's immense
commercial interests in the Far East, the British
Government, it says, has an indisputable right
to recommend the adoption on the part of a
policy to the great Powers.The Prince of Wales's Birthday on the 9th
last was not celebrated owing to the death
of the Emperor Alexander.At a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of
Commerce yesterday, a resolution was passed
declaring that the necessity for fresh sources of
revenue in India was solely due to the fall in
exchange, and urging the Government to adopt
a policy of international bimetalism in order to
alleviate the imposition of the import duties and
remove the continuance of the exchange
difficulty.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 5th.

A most gracious reply has been forwarded
by the Emperor Nicholas to the message of
sympathy with the Imperial family received
from Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

PARIS, November 6th.

The Czar has warmly thanked General
Mercier for the sympathetic message of the
French army on the death of the late Czar. A
similar message has been received by the
French Minister of Marine.General Baidoff and Admiral Gervais have
been selected to attend the obsequies of the late
Czar.THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER has received the
Chinese Ambassador, and assured him that
France will join the Powers in bringing about
peace between China and Japan.

NEW YORK, November 6th.

Advices received from Georgia state that
incendiary fires have broken out on seven British
steamers lying in Savannah harbour. About
4,000 bales have been damaged.

PEKING, November 6th.

China is disposed to conclude a peace with
Japan on the basis of an acknowledgment of the
autonomy of Korea, and the payment of such
war indemnity to Japan as shall be fixed by the
great Powers.

LONDON, November 6th.

The *Standard*, in a leading article to-day,
warns Japan that she may lose the whole of
the fruits of her victory by clutching at too
much, and urges the intervention of the great
Powers to prevent the disintegration of China.

SIMLA, November 7th.

Further troubles are reported from Beluchistan
but of what extent is not known.

NEW YORK, November 7th.

The Tammany Hall Democrats have been
utterly defeated by their opponents, the cry being
"Municipal Corruption." Owing to the success
of the Republicans at the polls their majority in
the House of Representatives will now exceed
the Democrats and Populists combined by 15.

LONDON, November 7th.

Mr. H. H. Johnston, British Commissioner to
Central Africa, at present in England, delivered
a lecture to a crowded audience at Liverpool
yesterday, in the course of which he said that
the welfare of Central Africa could only be
secured by the co-operation of British India
with the negroes, in order to secure which he
advocated offering land to Indian colonists so as
to induce them to settle in the country.A well attended meeting of merchants and
manufacturers was held at Manchester to-day,
when resolutions were passed for the establish-
ment of a Cotton Association, for Manchester.
The Managing Director of the Manchester Ship
Canal announced that the Company was pre-
pared to accept tenders from India by which
the direct shipment of place goods from Man-
chester to India.The Tinseltown correspondent of the *Times*
states that Prince Kwang, the President, has
declined before the Tamsui Yamen, or Foreign
Office, the impotence of Chinese against the
Japanese attack. (The *Times*, 12th Nov. 1894.)

YOKOHAMA, November 8th.

The Chinese fleet at Port Arthur is unable to
escape, as the Japanese fleet is completely
entrained to the harbour, and the Russian
fleet is threatening the rear. (An absolute
blockade.)—*Ed.*

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE Hankow races are fixed for the 22nd and
23rd inst.THE French cruiser *Alger* left for the North this
afternoon.A MEETING of the Sanitary Board will be held
to-morrow at 4.15 p.m.LORD Randolph Churchill was at Penang, en
route to Rangoon, on the 9th inst.THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s steamship
Empress of China arrived at Vancouver yester-
day at 7.30 p.m.THE Government dredger, which foundered in
the typhoon that raged here on the 5th ult., was
raised from the bottom of the deep blue sea
yesterday.AN Emergency meeting of Zetland Lodge, No.
525, will be held in the Freemasons' Hall, Zetland
Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely.
Visiting brethren are cordially invited.FOURTEEN days' hard labour was the dose of
physic administered by Mr. Wodehouse at his
leave this morning to a Chinese chef who
annexed a tin of coffee belonging to "Leithbridge
Lodge" mess.CAPT. Raymond returned to the colony from
Manila by the *Esmeralda* last night after
successfully delivering to her owners at the
capital of the Philippines the little launch
Samar, built by the Hongkong and Whampoa
Dock Co.At the Magistracy to-day, Lai Hing, storekeeper
in the employ of the Kowloon Godown Co., was
sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for con-
cealing a flask of quinine, valued at £60,
under some goods in the godown with intent to
defraud his employers.Mr. Otori, late Minister to Korea, was granted
an audience by the Emperor at Hiroshima on
the 8th instant, when the ex-Minister made to
His Majesty a detailed report of the condition of
affairs in Korea. It is said that Mr. Otori has
been appointed a Privy Councillor.FROM Shanghai comes another report that
Moukden is taken, says the *Yokohama Mail* of the
12th instant. Does Shanghai imagine that
General Yamagata's Army has wings?—Well,
of course Shanghai thinks nothing of the sort,
neither does the *Hongkong Telegraph*.THE revised Treaty between Japan and the
United States is expected to be signed in a few
days, says a Hiroshima telegram to the
Mail. At the same time it is reported that
Count Ito and Viscount Mutsu were to leave
Hiroshima for Tokyo on the 11th instant.CHANG CHIN TUNG, the ex-Wuchang Viceroy,
arrived in Nanking on the 8th inst., and took
over the seals of office on the 9th. No unusual
display was made over his arrival and installa-
tion into his new position. The question now
in the minds of everyone is, what is to be done
with Liu Kun Yih.We are glad to be able to report that Mr.
Wid Gillies, the able and indefatigable Sec-
retary of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock, who
has been slightly indisposed for several days,
has sufficiently recovered his wonted health and
strength to be able to resume his important
duties at the Head Office of the Company.THERE was another large and enthusiastic
audience at Harmanston's Mammoth Show at
West Point last night, when a very attractive
programme was gone through to the entire
satisfaction of the spectators. The same liberal
bill of fare will be provided for the audience to-
night, when more watches will be given away.We are asked by the owners, that owing to the
Gymkhana on Saturday the jumping contest has
been postponed from Friday, the 24th, until
Wednesday, the 28th instant, in deference to the
wishes of the competitors generally.At the Supreme Court yesterday Mr. C. D.
Wilkinson, solicitor, appeared before Mr. E. J.
Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice, on behalf of Mr.
Smith Allison, merchant and commission agent,
whose petition was filed in bankruptcy on
Monday. He stated that the petitioner applied
for a receiving order. There had not been time
for a statement of accounts, but there was a
considerable amount of assets from which he
hoped to be able to pay about 50 per cent. The
cause of bankruptcy was the utter stagnation of
trade in the colony during the last few months.
Besides office and household furniture, the
petitioner had goods in godowns upon a
portion of which value had been advanced by
his godown owners. His landlord made the
same Receiver-General, appointed Mr. Bruce
Shepherd trustee, and adjourned the further
hearing until Monday week.JUDGMENT was delivered at Singapore on the
13th inst. by Mr. Collyer in the *Nanyang*
Ingraham case. This was a claim for salvage
fruits on an agreement for \$20,000, and in the
alternative for services rendered by the
Ingraham to the *Nanyang* after her stranding
on the 5th August on Soroteo Island, a
counter-claim by the owners of the *Nanyang*
for damages caused by collision on the
Ingraham in towing her off the reef. After hear-
ing expert evidence his lordship set aside
the agreement for \$20,000, as oppressive and
inequitable, and gave judgment for the plaintiffs
for \$13,052.50, for salvage services, finding
for the defendants on the counter-claim. Some
of the issues raised as to the question of costs, Mr.
Donaldson contending (on behalf of the owners
of the *Nanyang*) that as he had succeeded on the
counter-claim he was entitled to costs. Ultimately
it was arranged that the *Ingraham*
should bear half the costs of the action.OUR morning contemporary is apparently afraid
to mention the name of the Japanese Consul
stationed in Hongkong, otherwise it would hardly
have published this morning under the caption
"Capture of Hsin-yen by the Japanese" the
guardian statement that the following telegram,
received last night, has been placed at our dis-
posal "in reference to the latest emanation from
the classic imaginations of the directors of that
unique collection of pseudoscience known as the
Japanese News Bureau whose head office is, we
believe, in Tokyo. The 'news' thus referred to
by the *Daily Press*, the veracity of which the
Telegraph begs leave to doubt, reads as follows:—"A detachment of the Japanese First Army
Corps made a successful attack on Hsin-yen,
where the enemy were reported to be 20,000
strong on the 18th inst. The attack commenced
at 6 a.m., and by 9 a.m. possession of the place
was taken. The Chinese troops fled towards the
north-west."We learn on good authority that the combined
land and sea attack on Port Arthur was expected
to commence to-day, the 21st inst.The *Hongkong Telegraph* remembers that the
Japanese fleet was seen on the 10th of Nov. 1894,
and howling a week ago!The China Merchants' steamer *Kwanglo* arrived
here this afternoon from Shanghai. She now
flies the British flag.CAPTAIN M. O'BRIEN, of the United States
Army, Captain W. W. Du Rois, and Surgeon-
Major Taylor, of the British Army, who have
been attached to the Japanese Headquarters in
China, arrived at Yokohama on the 8th instant
on their way to the front.

THE CUSTOMS BLOCKADE.

INTERESTING CHINESE EXTRADITION CASE.

At the Police Court this morning, before Mr.
Wodehouse, Samuel Chalmers, second mate,
was charged at the instance of Captain Yeo of
the historical British ship *Barcore* for being
under the influence of drink, disorderly conduct,
and using abusive and threatening language to
the skipper on the 19th instant.Captain Yeo stated that on the 19th instant at 7
a.m. he told the Chief Officer not to let his men
leave the ship, and especially defendant, who
was a boatswain on board.Defendant—I am second mate, not boatswain!
The defendant frequently interrupted the
witness and was called to order by his Worship.The Captain, continuing, stated that for nearly
three hours on the evening in question the
defendant abused him, using obscene and violent
language. At 10 p.m. a man came alongside
and defendant went ashore, and did not return
until the 21st. On coming on board that day
he again abused him in a trifling
manner. Defendant joined the ship in the morn-
ing on the last day of October as boatswain,
with the understanding that he was to act as
second mate.Defendant—I had permission from the chief
officer to leave the ship and to remain away as
long as I liked.His Worship—Is the chief officer here?
Defendant—No, your Worship; he's drunk
and incapable on board.

His Worship—Six weeks!

Defendant (to the skipper)—Have I got to go
on board the ship again?His Worship (to the Police)—Remove the
prisoner. Next case!

INVENTED INTERVENTION.

If the Orders of the Three-eyed Peacocks
Feather and Double-headed Dragon are to be
the reward of the purveyors of the most mis-
leading and absolutely false reports concerning
the policy of the Government of the Celestial
Empire since the Korean imbroglio merged,
through the rampant Jingoism of Japan,
into the outbreak of the war now being
waged in north-eastern Asia, then surely
the proprietors of Reuters' News Bureau
and the London *Times* will be the only
competitors, out of scores that might be
mentioned, that will have the ghost of a
chance of adding these distorted Chinese dis-
seminations to their family heirloom, for from
the commencement of the China-Japan war up to
the present time both Reuters and the ancient
Thunder have made blunder after blunder
which were, to say the least, as ludicrous
as they were embarrassing and compromising.
It is, of course, comprehensible to those who
"know the ropes" and have realised in and
travelled the Far East, that the *Times* has been
grossly misinformed and only by ill-informed
"specials" but by the officials of the Japanese
Legation in London, and as doubtless has Reuters,
but at the same time there appears to be no
excuse for the leading journal giving publicity to
ridiculous canards and even going the length of
directing a wholly unfounded attack upon the
Lord Robery and his colleagues in a sen-
sational leading article on the 17th ultimo, and
using its influence with Reuters to tele-
graph the gist of the "equi" to the
afternoon parts of the earth, and then, a
day or two later, when its confident assertions
were authoritatively denied and universally
condemned by all the reputable journals in Great
Britain, wriggle out of the difficulty in a manner
the reverse of creditable and with a flourish of
trumpets which were doubtless very pleasing to
the "Lilliputians of the Orient" who have so
far succeeded only in giving to the world what may
be aptly described as an offensive marionette
show in Korea and China.It has been stated over and over again that
the Chinese Government were suing for peace,
prompting Great Britain to intervene to save
the dynasty from destruction, and had even
appealed to all the representatives of the Treaty
Powers in Peking to bring about a cessation of
hostilities, and in this connection it is worthy of
note that Reuters wired out to the Far East under
date the 2nd October that "negotiations for peace
are proceeding at Seoul," while a week before
that the same ill-informed Bureau informed us that
"the *Times* states that the British Government
has incurred a needless and humiliating rebuff,
has lowered its prestige and impaired its
capacity to intervene in the China-Japan
quarrel in the event of occasion arising for
its so doing. No Power appears willing to
adopt the proposal for intervention." Of course
the statement that negotiations were going
on in Seoul was a mere bluff, as we pointed
out at the time

to war with France over the question of Madagascar; and now the "leading journal" has allowed itself and its readers to be misled by false information into the belief that the British Government had committed a blunder of the first rank in the conduct of the critical business of Eastern diplomacy. The country will not be so readily deceived another time. But it has to be observed that the Ministers themselves, by the manner and circumstances of their recent meeting, helped to lend some colour to the false rumours that got afloat; and also that their own friends were among the readiest to believe that they blundered. One critic, at least, judging by the ready belief he has given to these tales, and the uncorroborated place with which he has seized upon them as proof of Lord Rosebery's failure as Prime Minister, will be disappointed to hear that the Government are still in sound paths of foreign policy.

In point of fact, up to the present time China has never once appealed to the Powers to intervene for the all-important reason that she is, metaphorically speaking, "as safe as a church," as far as the invasion by the "Militarists of the Orient" is concerned. The "England of the Orient" if you please is concerned. And it is moreover equally certain that Great Britain was never better equipped to intervene at the proper moment than she is today, the upsurings of self-interested hirings of the Japanese Government to the contrary notwithstanding, as time will assuredly show in the not distant future. All the stories of intervention that have hitherto emanated from the facile imaginations of Reuters' agents in the East and the "Times" editor, who flunkies have been heard of nothing more reliable than the "gun" of mischievous yamen-runners members of dangerous secret societies and the empty vapourings of the Japanese News Bureau in Tokio. There has been no appeal by China for intervention of any kind, and the reports of such suicidal folly on the part of the advisers of the Emperor Kwang-su are silly inventions of the enemy and nothing more.

MR. T. H. WHITEHEAD AS THE "COLONIAL HAMPER"

AN INDIAN CONTEMPORARY ON HONGKONG AFFAIRS

A cry for representative Government comes from the Far East, the Colonial Hampden, the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, having first raised it. It is Hongkong (the time which he has spent in the management of its own affairs, and to be treated as other British possessions are. Whereas five years ago the colony was founded on a barren rock, the abode of a few fishermen and pirates, it is now a city and settlement with upwards of a quarter of a million inhabitants, and a trade estimated annually at about forty million sterling, yet its form of government is practically the same as it was fifty years ago, and it is claimed that the time has come for a change. The whole interests of the colony are; it is to be represented to the House of Commons; inextricably and permanently bound up in the good administration of the colony, in the efficiency of its executive, and the soundness of its finance. They are allowed to take only a limited part in the government of the colony, and are not permitted to have any really effective voice in the management of its affairs, either internal or external. Being purely a Crown Colony, it is governed by a Governor, appointed by the Queen, and an Executive Council, and a Legislative Council. The former is composed wholly of Officers of the Crown, nominated and appointed by the Queen; the latter consists of seven official members, elected and appointed by the Queen, and five unofficial members, two of whom are nominated by the Governor, and the other three are elected by the Governor, and all are appointed by His Majesty. The Executive Council sits and deliberates in secret. The Legislative Council sits with open doors, and its proceedings appear to admit of full and unfeigned discussion, but it is alleged there is virtually no true freedom of debate. Questions are considered and settled, and the policy to be adopted by the Government in connection with the colony is decided in the Executive Council. They are then brought before the Legislative Council, where the Government—the official members being in a majority—can secure the passing of any measure, in face of any opposition on the part of the unofficial members, who are thus limited to objecting and protesting—and this is mostly in vain, for members who have but short experience in the colony and are not in touch with it and its aspirations, determine what shall or shall not be done. Mr. Whitehead argues that the officials appointed to Hongkong are there so short a time that it is impossible to get into touch with it. Their appointments in that colony are merely stepping-stones to others, and could they do so and vote accordingly when any difference of opinion arose, they would run the risk of a conflict with the Governor. The unofficial members, it is pointed out on the other hand, are persons who have passed large portions of their lives in the colony, and who either have permanent personal interests in it, or hold prominent positions of trust which connect them most closely with its affairs, and are, therefore, the more likely to have been required to carefully study its real needs, and to have thoroughly acquainted themselves with the methods by which these are best to be met. And what they and the class from whom they are selected now wish is that they should be given a free voice with a control. Their request is not at all extravagant. All that they ask is that they may be placed upon a similar footing to Malta, Cyprus, Mauritius, and British Honduras. For they have unofficial seats in the Executive Council, power of election, and other kindred privileges, and none of these colonies have commercial or industrial industries of the same magnitude or importance as those of Hongkong. In brief, Mr. Whitehead calls for the free election of representatives of British nationality in the Legislative Council; a majority in the Council of such elected representatives; perfect freedom of debate for the official members, with power to vote according to their conscientious convictions, without being called to account or endangered in their positions by their votes; complete control in the Council over local expenditure; the management of local affairs; and a consultative voice in questions of an Imperial character. It is a modest request, and we hope it may be granted.—*Bombay Gazette.*

SIAM NEWS.

BANGKOK, November 21st. It is reported that a bridge on the Paknam line has broken down, and that for a few days during the past week the traffic has been maintained by engines running from Bangkok and Paknam, and the transfer of passengers over the broken bridge. It was only some two weeks ago that a desperate attempt was made to burn down one of the Company's bridges.

The mortality among the coolies, on the Korat Railway, for the months of August and September, is said to be great. The fever and dysentery cases also show an increase on the previous months. This is owing in a great measure to the heavy rains that have fallen in these parts, and also to the unhealthy position, where work is now going on in the middle of that extensive swampy area formerly at Dong-Phe-Pie.

The prospects from the chief rice districts are still promising, and every hope is held out that 1894-95 will be a bumper year. The rice crops in the immediate neighbourhood of Bangkok are suffering somewhat from want of moisture, and the inhabitants have been busy during the last week in pumping the water brought up by the high tides into the parched paddy fields. A few light showers of rain at the present time, would, it is generally believed, be of great service to the condition and quantity of the coming crop.

We regret to learn that Miss Hutchinson, who lately came out as governess to Phra Vichit's children, has been very sick, and has been removed to the hospital in a very ill-behaved manner. English governesses coming out to Siam ought to insist on being provided with residences of their own, or of being allowed to make arrangements whereby they can reside with Europeans. Life in a Siamese mansion is totally unsuited to young ladies fresh from home, or for young ladies of some experience in the East for a matter of that. The palaces so glibly talked of by the lady reporters of home papers, who may happen to go to Siam, are too often in the air; and sad awakenings would be spared English young ladies if they expected less place and more hardship on coming to Siam. No Siamese house, however well ordered, leaves the place for an English governess, and this fact had better be clearly understood by young ladies who may be intending to take up appointments as governesses in private Siamese families.—*Siam Free Press.*

BANGKOK, November 10th. New paddy, we are informed, has begun to arrive, and some of the rice firms have already commenced milling.

Two cholera cases have occurred in Bangkok this week, one proving fatal. Cholera has also been reported in the Rattumburi and Bang Phang districts.

Mr. De Bunsen (H.B.M. Chargé d'Affaires) accompanied by Mr. Beckett (Acting-Consul) paid an official visit to the Foreign Minister (H.R.H. Prince Devawongse) on Thursday. It is expected that his Majesty will shortly grant an audience to the British and United States Representatives and receive their credentials.

An inquiry into the circumstances attending the loss of the *Memaw* has been proceeding this week. Considerable surprise has been caused by the statement in a local paper that there was only one European officer on board, there being three who held certificates as "captains at long courses," and two European engineers, Lieut. Pettit, of the *Albatross*, has visited the vessel, the deck of which is above water. He finds that a large launch and a lighter which the *Memaw* was towing caused an error of 11 degrees in her compass. The effect of this was that the Captain lost his bearings and ran upon the rock, he was trying to avoid. After the first shock the vessel got off into deep water, but finding they were rapidly sinking the Captain turned and ran her at full speed upon the rock, thus saving great loss of life.

The King made his first public appearance for many months on Thursday afternoon, for the purpose of taking part in the *Tam Katin* ceremonies. Leaving the Palace shortly after half-past five, His Majesty, accompanied by the Crown Prince and several of his younger brothers, arrived at Wat Rachabodhi in a state coach, drawn by four handsome horses, about 5.50, escorted by a strong detachment of cavalry, and followed by several carriages containing the Royal Princes and Ministers. A great assembly of the Siamese nobility were waiting to receive the King and accompanied him into the Wat, where he stayed about half an hour, performing the usual devotions and making gifts to the priests. He appeared very much improved in health, though rather careworn, and on leaving walked to his carriage without assistance. Large crowds of Siamese and others thronged the vicinity, and his Majesty was received on all hands with demonstrations of delight. A similar visit was afterwards made to Wat Rachabodhi, the procession returning to the Palace by Phang-Nak Street. En route his Majesty cordially saluted all the Europeans who came under his notice.—*Bangkok Times.*

BANGKOK, November 11th. His Majesty's yacht *Apollon* will shortly be ready, as new boilers have been put in and she has had a thorough overhaul.

Two more rice mills are in course of erection—one owned by the firm Kwang Hap Seng and the other by Ho Heng & Co. They are both on the west side of the river, and below the Arracan Company's premises.

We learn that the Oplum Farmers' launch has recently been lost. It appears that the launch, when going down the river on the night of the 28th ultimo, collided with some junk opposite Windsor & Co's, and capsized.

Several gangs of Chinese were seen being marched to the Bangkok Police Station on the 6th inst, with police escort, and on enquiry we learned that they were police tax defaulters. Considering that the tax is only 4 Ticals for three years, it is surprising that such large numbers should attempt to evade it.

The well known Klong Morn brick kilns have been sold by the widow of the late Mr. John Clunio for 4,000 Ticals. The purchasers are the Bangkok Tramways Co., but the rights of the present lessee, Mr. A. Maclean, will not be interfered with.

We understand that Mr. Cairns is returning to Bangkok immediately. The mill in Manila in which he had an interest was sold last month to Messrs. Smith, Bell & Co. of that place for \$125,000, and Mr. Cairns was to have left there on the 1st instant.

A small new steamer of 70 or 80 feet long, built in Bangkok, drawing about 4 or 5 feet of water, and owned by the firm Kim Seng Lee, has got stuck above Paknam, owing to a sudden fall in the water. Two elephants failed to pull her out, so that she will have to wait there for one year.

The steamer *Hong Kong* arrived from Hongkong on the morning of the 6th inst, consigned to Messrs. Andersen & Co. We understand that, on the arrival of the vessel, H. E. Phya Monti purchased it for \$12,000. The vessel is 81 feet long, and is of a similar type to the vessel that came from Hongkong for Messrs. Wang Lee.

The *Hiddekel*, which was chartered by Messrs. Clarke & Co., is now lying outside the bar. During her voyage from Hongkong she had strong winds to contend with, and this, coupled with her not having a clean bottom, accounts for her not arriving to the chartered time. It is not now likely that she will load in Bangkok.

The *Hong Kong* was purchased from Messrs. Ramsey & Co. at Hongkong for H. E. Phya Monti for his own private use, and was for Messrs. Andersen & Co. as reported by us in error on the 8th inst. The length of the vessel is 90 feet, and, having been certified as a Siamese vessel by the Siamese Consul at Hongkong, she left that port under the Siamese flag.

The two Siamese who were shot by the Portuguese subject Burro on Friday the 18th inst, are now lying in the Hospital in a precarious condition. It was found that in the case of the man who was shot in the back, the bullet had travelled upwards from the small of the back to above the right lung, being extracted by Dr. Hays from just under the collar-bone. Burro, who is employed in the Royal Railway Department, has been arrested, and is now in custody. A meeting of the directors of the Bangkok Tramways Co. was held at the office of the Company at 5 p.m. on Friday the 19th inst.

For the first time in the history of the Company the meeting was a full one; Dr. Hays occupied the chair, and the other directors were present: Commodore Riebell, Messrs. Wittenholts, Rietz, Finch, Chom, Srisarakas and Phya Samud. The business before the meeting was of a fourfold nature. The first matter was the authorizing of the recent purchase of the brick field by Mr. Wittenholts on behalf of the Company; the second was the declaring of a dividend of 10 per cent. for the past three months (equal to 16 per cent. per annum); the third being the granting of permission to Mr. Wittenholts to occupy part of his time in the preparation of a prospectus for the Petchaburi Railway; and the fourth was a private matter.—*Siam Observer.*

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